

MINUTES
of the
Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
meeting on
July 12, 2002
held at
Nevada Partners
Conference Room
710 W Lake Mead Blvd.
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS

Alyce Thomas, Chair of the Council, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Members present:

- | | |
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| • Aitken, Nancy | • Legier, Barbara |
| • Bennett, Bob | • Parra, Debbie |
| • Caloiaro, Dave | • Rodriguez, Jenita |
| • Crowe, Kevin | • Thomas, Alyce |
| • Cooley, Judge W. | • Uptergrove, Anna |
| • Jackson, Barbara | |

Members absent:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Clark, Jerry (excused) | • Doyle, Mike (excused) |
| • DeJan, Emil (excused) | • Johnson, Rosetta (excused) |
| • Dopf, Gloria (excused) | • Taycher, Karen (excused) |

Staff and others in attendance:

- | | |
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| • Cotton, Ed – DCFS | • Van, Allen – NAMI Nevada |
| • Davis, Vic – NAMI Nevada | • Walker, Lillian – Nevada PEP |
| • Lister, Traci – Nevada Recovery Guide | • Zeiser, Andrew – Administrative Consultant |
| • Merrill, Pat – NNAMHS | |

Alyce Thomas asked everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the guests present today.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Alyce Thomas asked for questions and comments on the minutes set forth for approval from the following meetings: February 6 and 7, 2002. None were made. She then asked for a motion to approve.

MOTION: Made by Kevin Crowe, seconded by Jenita Rodriguez, to approve the minutes from the February 6 and 7, 2002, meetings as submitted.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

III. FY 2002 CONSUMER SERVICES PROGRAM REPORTS

Kevin Crowe began by pointing out that this agenda item is an opportunity for the Council members to monitor the projects for which the Council awarded grants last year, with the budget funds set aside for consumer services. Alyce Thomas asked Pat Merrill to begin his presentation. Pat reminded everyone present that Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) was awarded a grant for \$10,500 to open a Canteen Employment Learning Lab for vocational rehabilitation. This was planned as a way to implement best practices by improving the vocational component of the NNAMHS psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR) program.

NNAMHS has an existing facility on campus that formerly operated as a Canteen but has been closed for several years. On the surface, Pat said, it appears that not a lot has happened because the Canteen is not yet open, even though almost a year has passed. However, he explained that during the renovation process staff learned there is asbestos in the flooring, which legally requires abatement. Because the abatement is a Public Works project, there have been many delays in the process. Pat has been working with staff at Public Works to determine a date for opening the Canteen. He said Public Works will put the asbestos abatement project out to bid within two weeks of today. This project will be open to bid for one month. Once a contractor is selected, the work should take approximately one week. Pat foresees opening the Canteen within the next two months.

Regarding their budget expenditures to date, so far they have spent \$500 of the grant award on training for consumers to become storekeepers at the Canteen. These are contracted positions through which storekeepers will supervise consumers who are employed at the Canteen. Pat said they have not expended anymore funds at this time because he wants to ensure the Canteen will open first. Once it is open, they will expend the bulk of the FY 2002 funds on equipment. Once in operation, the Canteen will employ 10 to 12 clients to develop work skills in a structured, safe environment.

Kevin brought up the consumers that attended a past Council meeting who expressed their views about changes in the PSR program, i.e., the end of the Peer Advocate program. Kevin asked Pat to comment on this. Pat said NNAMHS has a limited industrial therapy budget for client employment. When the new PSR supervisor, Dave Proffitt, started working at NNAMHS and

reviewed the existing Peer Advocate program, he determined that it served too few clients. By initiating a PSR project such as the Canteen, they will serve a greater number of clients. Kevin also pointed out that types of problems such as asbestos abatement are not unusual because of the age of the buildings on the NNAMHS campus.

Judge Cooley asked if it is possible for the State to lease or buy other property for this project. Kevin and Pat said that limited budgets typically restrict these options. Judge Cooley suggested they could seek corporate sponsors who might donate space. Pat said that the renovation to date has made the building ready with the exception of the asbestos abatement and floor replacement, and so looking for another space might set them back further. Alyce asked how they will pay storekeeper salaries if the grant funds that were originally allocated for salaries go toward equipment. Pat said they plan to purchase the equipment, get the operation running so that they can build a profit base, and then hopefully have money for salaries. He noted that NNAMHS plans to request funds from the Council again this year to contribute to storekeeper salaries for FY 2003.

Alyce then asked Pat to review some of the equipment they plan to purchase. Pat mentioned various items including a sink, food prep equipment, computer, stock supplies, etc. Pat noted that Cynthia Lommel will be supervising the program. Barbara Jackson said she is concerned about paying the storekeepers and clients minimum wage because she feels this is too low. She is also concerned that the business will not generate enough profit within the first year to keep the Canteen running. Pat agreed this is a fair concern. Regarding the minimum wage issue, Nancy Aitken pointed out that these are intended to be training positions and the hope would be that clients move on to higher paying jobs later on. Pat said that clients selected into this program are those who typically have vocational challenges and need a stepping stone for other work in the community. Their goal is not to produce food service workers, but rather encourage clients to build toward work in the community by developing necessary pre-career skills and work stamina.

Barbara Legier asked if the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) will be involved in the program. Pat said he is working with a staff member from this agency. More discussion followed. Barbara then asked if they are aware of the BVR facility located at Corporate Boulevard, which has quite a few resources. Pat said that there is a better relationship with BVR in the south than in the north. However, they are working to strengthen their relationship with BVR up here.

Alyce then asked for additional questions or comments for Pat. None were made. Alyce told the group that she understands she has been firm with Pat about the grant expenditures. However, she believes it is important to ensure the Council is making a good investment with its grant funds. She said that both Pat and Dr. Harold Cook have been regularly updating her about the status of the Canteen. She is glad to know that progress is being made.

Alyce moved on to ask Traci Lister to begin her presentation. Traci operates the Nevada Recovery Guide, which is a resource and referral website. Traci expressed her thanks to the Council for the funds that helped her build this project. The money was spent primarily on building the website and data entry. Traci noted she does not draw a salary for this project.

The website provides referral information for all types of services related to recovery. Additionally, Traci worked with counselors throughout Nevada, and some internationally, who authored resource information about treatment and recovery that is available on the site. Traci believes the serious problems faced in Nevada include clients' inability to be placed into programs because of waiting lists. Her goal for the coming year is to provide more detail about what specific services are provided by the organizations listed on the site. She continually updates the resource information. Traci then commented on the problems surrounding substance abuse and education. She is focused currently on working with youth and parents on untreated mental illness and substance abuse.

Beyond this, Traci is working with volunteers who want to spend some of their time addressing these unmet needs. She would like to see more collaboration and communication between State agencies and service providers. She commented on the need for people with problems to get help accessing services. She would like to see a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) type of program implemented for the Mental Health Courts. Ideally, advocates would serve as a helping hand for clients in need.

Traci is also working on a video series about the consequences of substance abuse and resulting criminal behaviors. She emphasized a solution-oriented approach to addressing these types of problems. Traci said she receives communication from a variety of people who need service referral, and works to point them in the right direction. She believes that a volunteer base could work directly to help connect people in need with community services. Traci said her focus is on healing, and emphasized that she believes we all have the power to change.

Kevin asked Traci to discuss the website content more specifically. Traci explained the basics about information access through the Internet. The site is located at www.nevadarecoveryguide.com. Traci then distributed a brochure that provides a more detailed overview of the information and services they provide. She invited the Council members to submit resource information they feel may be appropriate and explained how they can e-mail it to her.

Kevin then brought up the chat room on her site and asked her to expand on this. Traci explained that a chat room is accessed by individuals logging into a virtual 'room' wherein people can communicate in real time by typing messages back and forth. Traci said that the room she hosted did not attract as much participation as she had hoped. However, the sister site, www.survivingthesystem.com, has had more success in obtaining stories about recovery. Traci said what is important is that people know they are not alone in facing their problems. She believes the Internet makes people feel comfortable enough to access help while still remaining anonymous. She also discussed message boards that allow questions and answers to be posted.

Ed Cotton commented that the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is receiving a grant to help juvenile offenders reenter the community. Anna Uptergrove asked about funding for adults. Ed said his understanding is that there is funding available for similar projects for adults also. More discussion followed. Alyce concluded the discussion by thanking Traci for her presentation.

Alyce then asked Vic Davis to begin his presentation. Vic distributed a handout on the peer-to-peer training program conducted by NAMI Nevada. The focus of the program is to educate consumers about understanding mental illness and integration into the community. This is a train-the-trainers approach wherein teams of mentors are trained, who in turn provide training to consumers in the community. Vic then reviewed a budget expenditure report. For the second year of the program, NAMI Nevada plans to expand the program to rural areas and establish additional training teams in Reno and Las Vegas.

Alyce asked if any consumer can take part in this program or just NAMI members. Vic said all consumers are eligible. Alyce asked how participants are recruited. Vic said they are primarily recruited through NAMI. Allen Van said they have also recruited through providers, including State of Nevada staff. Vic said if Council members are aware of people interested in the program, they can feel free to contact him. Vic and Allen said they would not turn anyone away regardless of whether they are NAMI members or not. Nancy noted that NAMI Nevada offers support groups that serve both members and non-members.

Alyce then asked how they screen consumers into the program. Allen said in general they are recommended to NAMI Nevada through a referral. Following this, they set up meetings with potential participants and work to understand what stage they are at in their recovery process. For those who are still facing serious behavioral challenges, NAMI Nevada recommends that they wait until they are further along in the program. In general, it is a job-like interview process.

Dave Caloiaro asked about the duration of the class. It is two hours per week over a nine-week period. Allen said there are no tests and little homework, but the classes are fast paced. Dave asked if they present a variety of content including handouts, videos, etc. Allen said that most of the content is provided verbally through the mentors. He said NAMI Nevada is hesitant to generate textbook-type materials. However, they do have handouts that go along with the course material that is covered. Allen then provided more detail about the nature of the classes.

Allen also brought up the issue of advanced directives, which are reviewed in the course. Dave said that Arizona has an excellent model for advanced directives for behavioral health. Alyce said she participated in an advanced directives course specific to mental health and she has resource materials for this. Vic said that NAMI Nevada will advocate for a bill draft request (BDR) related to advanced directives during the upcoming Legislative session. More discussion followed. Dave said that by law psychiatric hospitals are required to provide information about advanced directives.

Alyce asked for again final questions and comments. Barbara Jackson said she is happy to see that a consumer was invited to speak to the Council about the program. She commends NAMI Nevada for encouraging consumer involvement. Vic said he will submit another proposal for funding the program in response to this year's request for proposal (RFP).

Alyce then began her presentation for the Mental Health Association (MHA) of Southern Nevada. The MHA's program focused on stigma training and served 137 consumers, each of whom received a stipend for participation. The consumer training focused on stigma and self-

advocacy. In addition to training consumers, they provided stigma courses to staff at NNAMHS, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS), the City of Henderson, and the City of Pahrump. For the cities, training was provided to management teams and employees about the stigma surrounding mental illness. In total, they educated 1,032 employees and 237 managers. The MHA also printed and distributed 500 brochures on stigma with funds provided by the Council. Alyce mentioned that the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) has adopted the MHA of Southern Nevada's curriculum for national stigma training.

Alyce then discussed the stigma she has faced in the workplace, including in her new position with the State, and emphasized the importance of stigma training across all disciplines. She said this year the MHA plans to host a leadership academy focused on stigma training. Alyce emphasized that the MHA has received national recognition for their program and is working to improve mental health services in Nevada. As part of the proposed leadership academy, NMHA representatives plan to participate in the project also. The primary focus is on grass roots training on mental health issues. Alyce noted that they will also include training on advanced directives.

Alyce concluded by saying she is willing to submit a written report if the Council desires to follow up on what she discussed. The members said the information recorded in the minutes will suffice. Alyce then asked for final questions and comments. Barbara Legier asked Alyce to attend the next Vocational Rehabilitation meeting to make a presentation on the MHA's stigma training. Brief discussion followed.

**** The meeting broke at 10:35 am, then resumed at 10:50 am.*

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE REVISED FY 2002 COUNCIL BUDGET

Alyce Thomas began by explaining that the Council received a small increase in its budget based on the FFY 2002 Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant increase. Andrew Zeiser explained that the increase of \$4,989 was allocated across three line items: \$3000 for consumer services, \$1,349 for travel, and \$500 for equipment repair. He briefly reviewed the changes to each line item and discussed the time frame established by MHDS for submitting the budget for approval by the Interim Finance Committee (IFC).

Alyce emphasized that although the Executive Committee reviewed the changes, she wanted to bring them directly to the Council. She asked for comments or questions. None were made. Alyce then asked for a motion to approve.

MOTION: Made by Jenita Rodriguez, seconded by Dave Caloiaro, to approve the budget revisions as submitted.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

V. MHPAC ROLES CLARIFICATION

Alyce Thomas began by asking Andrew Zeiser to distribute the reports generated for today's meeting. These included the following: Out-of-state Council travel expenditures for FY 2000 to present, Council stipend disbursements for FY 2000 to present, letter from Rosetta Johnson to the Council. These are included respectively as Attachments A, B, and C to these minutes.

Alyce said that since beginning her position as Chair of the Council, she has had ongoing problems with Rosetta Johnson and she wants to resolve these matters once and for all. She explained that Dr. Carlos Brandenburg invited the Executive Committee and staff to meet personally to resolve the problems between Rosetta and herself. However, Rosetta did not attend this meeting.

Alyce then brought up the CMHS monitoring visit that occurred at the end of May, in which Rosetta was not invited to participate. Alyce said she believes it was at her discretion whom to invite. She asked Dave Caloiaro to participate based on the fact that he is one of the newest members of the Council and also because he represents Medicaid. Conversely, she invited Anna Uptergrove because she is one of the longer-term members of the Council. She invited Jenita Rodriguez because of her background in women's studies and cultural diversity. Alyce herself participated based on her position as the Chair. Alyce then explained that the response from the CMHS monitors was very positive and they praised Nevada's cultural competence efforts. Alyce stated that she did not invite Rosetta, along with many of the other Council members, based on her decision to select the representation she believed was appropriate for the review.

Alyce also brought up Rosetta's request for funds from the Council for her training program at NNAMHS. Alyce informed Rosetta that she could either apply for funds through the FY 2003 RFP process or be put on the 'wish list' for grant reversion funds through MHDS. However, she explained that there was no guarantee that Rosetta would receive reversion funds and made this clear to her.

Alyce then brought up the issue of her application for the Consumer Services Assistant Statewide Coordinator position. She expressed her initial reluctance to apply for the position because she was aware that some people would believe it was a conflict of interest. However, she was encouraged to apply so she went ahead with the application process. Upon being offered the position, she received a call from Rosetta asking if she would leave her position as Chair of the Council. This was followed by Rosetta's request for information about Alyce's out-of-state travel on behalf of the Council. Upon trying to discuss the reason for the request with Rosetta, Alyce said Rosetta declined to communicate with her about it. Alyce then discussed her reasons for wanting to represent the Council and her belief that she should fulfill her term as Chair. Alyce emphasized again that she believes the Council should be aware of these matters, so this is why she has brought them before the Council.

In response to the concerns expressed by Rosetta about her continued status as Chair, Alyce contacted Carlos and requested that he seek an opinion from the Attorney General's Office. She also discussed the matter with representatives from the National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils (NAMHPAC). Additionally, she sent a letter about the issue to

Denise Pintello, Nevada's CMHS Project Officer. Alyce said she spoke directly with Denise, who indicated that CMHS did not believe this was a problem.

Several members expressed their disappointment at the need to discuss all of these issues at length during a Council meeting. Alyce agreed that the Council has more important business than addressing these types of issues. However, she believes it is important to have the matter openly discussed by the Council so that some resolution can be achieved and the issues can be dealt with once and for all.

Specific to another of the points brought up in Rosetta's letter, Alyce explained that Dr. Kevin Crowe did not tell Rosetta that she could not have the information requested about Council travel, but rather he wanted the request brought directly to her as the Chair. Given the problems that followed, this is why she brought everything before the Council today. She then asked Kevin to comment.

Kevin pointed out that Alyce applied for her new Statewide Coordinator position as part of a competitive process and indicated that although there were other well-qualified candidates, it was determined by a panel of interviewers that she was the best qualified for the job. Kevin also stated that he is proud of Alyce's accomplishments. In response to Rosetta's claim that Kevin attacked her, he said he does not believe this is true. Kevin communicated to her that he disagreed with accusations she made regarding the poor functioning of the Council overall and the integrity of individual members. Kevin said that he believes Rosetta perceived this response as an attack.

Regarding Rosetta's request for the release of information about the Chair's out-of-state travel, Kevin emphasized that as the Chief of Planning and Evaluation for MHDS he is well aware of the availability of public information. However, he believes that requests for such information should come through the Council Chair. Kevin said he specifically stated to Rosetta that she should process her information requests through the Chair first, and then he would be happy to assist the Council with any such requests. In response, he said Rosetta expressed her refusal to contact Alyce. Although Rosetta was not willing to speak with her directly, Alyce said that Based on Rosetta's request she instructed Andrew to prepare the information for today's meeting.

Kevin continued by saying that in spite of the fact that Alyce has had to face the challenges of various hardships as she assumed the position of Chair, he has seen the Council grow markedly in a positive way largely because of her good leadership. He said if the Council agrees with any of the concerns expressed by Rosetta, he would like to discuss them with the group. If not, he hopes that the Council will clearly document their support for Alyce to continue as Chair. Kevin reiterated that Alyce was the best candidate for the position of Statewide Coordinator, and reiterated that he would never berate or attack any Council members.

Judge Cooley said that in any given group dynamic, all of a group's members become victims of slanderous comments. She understands that Kevin and Alyce are upset about Rosetta's allegations. Judge Cooley said she is upset that they have to defend their behavior to someone who is not present. She then made a motion that if any Council member has a problem with the

functioning of the Council, they should bring it directly before the group rather than send correspondence back and forth behind the scenes. Judge Cooley said that one person's disgruntled response should not adversely affect the group as a whole or take up meeting time.

Judge Cooley then reiterated the motion that any Council member's concern about the operation of the group be brought before the Council as a whole. Alyce suggested that language about this could be added to the bylaws. Ed Cotton suggested that we should not restrict correspondence on the part of Council members.

In response, Judge Cooley said that she would amend the motion to state that Council members should request an item on the agenda to address concerns about the operation of the group. Dave Caloiaro suggested that a grievance policy should be established in the bylaws. Ed pointed out that if someone does choose to send correspondence about the operation of the Council, they can be referred to the related policy in the bylaws.

Alyce then asked Dave and Judge Cooley if they would be willing to work on developing and recommending language for the bylaws. Jenita followed up by asking if Judge Cooley would be willing to withdraw her motion for now and work more carefully to outline proposed language for the group to review. Andrew explained that bylaw changes could be publicly noticed for approval at a future meeting once they are reviewed as a proposed change to the bylaws.

Jenita then said she would like to see the Council express their support of Alyce continuing in her position as Chair. Ed clarified that the Council should be specific to Alyce's position as Chair, and not bypass the grievance process before it is established. Judge Cooley suggested a voice vote as to whether Alyce remains the Chair through her current term. Barbara Jackson said the Council is breaking new ground in that Alyce is now both a State employee and the Chair. Barbara said she believes the Council should support those who pioneer into new territory. It is very hard for a female and a minority to step forward and make the kinds of choices Alyce has made. Based on this, Barbara said that the Council members should support Alyce's position. She underscored the point that if the Council agreed to fund the Consumer Services Assistant positions, they should support consumers who enter into them.

Anna Uptergrove said she was impressed with openness and honesty of Alyce's letter to Rosetta, and her willingness to lay everything out on the table for the Council. Ed said that ideally, Alyce should not have had to do this. Ann also said she supports Dave Caloiaro's recommendation to include a grievance process in the bylaws.

Ed pointed out that the bylaws allow for removal of the Chair. Alyce said her understanding is that Rosetta considered this option in response to her becoming employed by the State. Alyce emphasized the importance of separating personal vendetta from decisions about her ability to function as Chair. This is why she sought the input of the Attorney General and CMHS. Alyce reiterated her desire to complete her term as Chair and said she discussed this with Kevin prior to interviewing for the job. She explained to him that she desired to fulfill her term and did not want it to be a conflict of interest.

Judge Cooley followed up by asking if anyone wants to make a motion to remove the Chair. No members responded. Judge Cooley then made a motion to retain Alyce as Chair and commend her for her efforts on behalf of the Council. Jenita asked for a friendly amendment to include a vote of confidence for Alyce's performance. Dave asked for a friendly amendment to include a vote of confidence for Kevin Crowe and his accomplishments on behalf of the Council.

MOTION: Made by Judge Cooley, seconded by Jenita Rodriguez, to retain Alyce Thomas as Chair of the Council, commend her for her efforts on behalf of the Council, and agree to a vote of confidence for her performance. Additionally, the Council members also agree to a vote of confidence for Kevin Crowe and his accomplishments on behalf of the Council.

IN FAVOR: Nancy Aitken, Bob Bennett, Dave Caloiaro, Judge W. Cooley, Barbara Jackson, Barbara Legier, Debbie Parra, Jenita Rodriguez, Anna Uptergrove.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTENTIONS: Kevin Crowe and Alyce Thomas.

Ed brought up the issues surrounding the Executive Committee and suggested that the Council might consider whether this committee should be continued or not. Alyce explained the ideal role of the Executive Committee is to provide continuity between Chairs, and when she completes her term she plans to provide help to the new Chair only as needed. Ed said that the language in the bylaws is vague. Alyce suggested that Dave and Judge Cooley examine the bylaws as a whole to consider relevant changes.

Alyce then brought up the matter of Council absences. She explained that she is aware that Rosetta's absence today may not be considered excused. She then asked the Council members to direct her as to how they believe absences should be evaluated as excused versus unexcused. Ed and Dave then read from the bylaws regarding absences:

Section 1: Absences

Two consecutive absences from regularly scheduled meetings without sufficient or overriding reason will be considered unexcused absences and may constitute grounds for removal from membership. At each regularly scheduled meeting, absences will be noted and indications of excused or unexcused will be noted. The Chair will determine if the absences are excused or unexcused at the time of the next scheduled meeting.

Jenita said that since the bylaws are being reviewed, this issue should be considered as well. More discussion followed. Alyce said because of the complexity of this matter, she does not want to make the decision on her own. Jenita suggested that if there is a question about excused absences, the Council might be asked to make the decision as a group. Ed Cotton asked Judge Cooley about the liability of the group. Judge Cooley said that as a body, the Council could be sued, and that individual members could be sued also. She agreed that the bylaws should be clear about absences and said she would work with Dave to address this issue. However, Judge Cooley said that the Council should not become 'attendance police.' She explained that in order

to limit their liability, if advance notice is given about an absence, the Council will most likely have to consider it excused without examining too closely whether the excuse is valid. Judge Cooley said Dave and she will look into acceptable versus unacceptable excuses.

Barbara Jackson suggested that perhaps this agenda item as a whole should have been tabled until Rosetta was able to attend the meeting. Judge Cooley said she objects to this statement because efforts were made to involve Rosetta in several different ways. Barbara said she agrees that the Council should have policies about this outlined in the bylaws. Alyce mentioned that there are existing models to follow in order to determine whether absences are excused. More discussion followed.

Judge Cooley again said she objects to tabling any of this discussion and putting it on a future agenda. Furthermore, she does not believe that the matter should be reopened at a future meeting. She wants to close the matter today. Ann said she agrees that a policy should be developed surrounding grievances and attendance, and encouraged Judge Cooley and Dave in their efforts.

Alyce concluded by asking for additional comments. None were made.

**** The meeting broke for lunch at 11:50 am, then resumed at 12:45 pm.*

VI. ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES AND DISCUSS WORKPLANS

Alyce Thomas began by discussing the need for the Council to establish subcommittees in order to focus on some specific projects. Alyce said that she would like Judge Cooley and Dave Caloiaro to work together to review the bylaws. Alyce invited Jenita Rodriguez to participate if she wants to take part.

Alyce then said she would like to appoint Jenita to head up the Legislative subcommittee, based on her work with Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie. Alyce discussed her own work with Assemblyman Morse Arberry and her plans to advocate for mental health funding during the next Legislative session. She said Jenita would be ideal to work with both Divisions and asked if there are other interested Council members. Anna Uptergrove and Bob Bennett volunteered to work on the Legislative subcommittee with Jenita. Brief discussion followed. Alyce suggested the subcommittee members set meetings with the Division Administrators, Dr. Carlos Brandenburg and Ed Cotton.

Dave asked if the subcommittee members have Legislative issues identified. Alyce reminded the group that some Legislative issues were identified at the February 7 joint workshop with the Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS) Commission. However, she wants the subcommittee members to meet with both Divisions and then come back to report to the group. Dave offered to provide some technical assistance to the subcommittee regarding current issues. He brought up example topics including advance directives for mental health.

Alyce then said she would like Debbie Parra to assist with the Website subcommittee. Debbie respectfully declined. Kevin said his hope is to have the Council members look at the current website and offer suggestions for improvement. Alyce said Kevin and Andrew Zeiser are currently working on the website content and if other members are interested they can offer feedback to either of them. Kevin brought up the MHDS webmaster, Rosie Cevalasco, and discussed her work on the site. Jenita agreed to offer feedback on the site.

Alyce then brought up the strategic planning subcommittee. She said that nationally, many planning councils have strategic plans and so she would like to develop one for the Nevada Council. She is interested particularly in redeveloping the Council's mission statement. She also brought up the possibility of developing position statements on relevant mental health issues.

Kevin said his goal for strategic planning is to involve the Council in the development of the MHDS strategic plan. He would like someone to formally represent the Council in the Division's strategic planning efforts. Kevin said they will have to meet in August and September to begin work on further development of the plan. The Division will also work with the MHDS Commission to obtain representation from them. He pointed out that the MHDS Strategic Plan ties directly to the Division's needs assessment and budget development. The requirement for participating Council members would be only to meet a few times between meetings. Debbie and Dave volunteered to work with Kevin, along with Bob and Ann.

Alyce then brought up expanding the Council's membership. She said that the Council has some applications on file and she will be soliciting more specifically from rural areas. Alyce said the Executive Committee will be working on this. She then discussed some of her outreach efforts in the rural areas more detail, noting that her goal is to reach rural areas beyond Carson City.

Dave said he participates in the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care Committee, which addresses homelessness in the rural areas. This includes mental health issues. Dave said Dale Capurro works on this initiative and he might be able to come and speak about it to the Council.

Alyce again said that she desires to expand the Council by four, which was originally recommended when expansion was addressed by the Council before. Alyce said that the federal monitors from CMHS suggested including a University representative and possibly a member of the State Assembly. Alyce then asked for a motion to approve expanding the Council by four members.

MOTION: Made by Barbara Jackson, seconded by Nancy Aitken, to expand the Council by four members with representation categories to be determined by the Executive Committee.

Kevin asked about the timeline for adding members. Alyce said she is not certain what it will be. Barbara Jackson asked if Alyce is considering a northern and a southern rural representative. Alyce said yes. Alyce asked for further discussion. No additional comments were made. Alyce then called for a vote.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Jenita commented positively on expansion of the Council. More discussion followed.

VII. EXECUTIVE REPORT

Alyce Thomas began by talking about the CMHS Monitoring visit. Nevada expects a written report in August or September. Verbally, Alyce said the monitors stated that the visit was very positive and went well.

Alyce asked Kevin Crowe to comment on the CMHS National Technical Assistance Conference. Kevin explained that this year CMHS combined the Technical Assistance Conference with the Data Infrastructure Grant (DIG) Conference. The DIG Conference focused on data collection and statistics. Kevin agreed that the perception of Nevada at the national level has changed and become more positive, particularly with the focus on consumer involvement. Andrew Zeiser commented on the value of the Technical Assistance Conference for further developing the grant application.

Alyce commented positively on Andrew's contributions to the grant application. She mentioned the positive feedback on the application and reiterated that this year's application was received with no exceptions. She also commented on the positive monitoring visit experience and Andrew's work to organize it. Alyce said she wants to emphasize that Andrew does a good job on the grant application and his work is appreciated and valued by the Council. Brief discussion followed.

Regarding the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) Conference, Alyce said this was the best one she has attended to date. This year, consumers worked to organize the content and Alyce was asked to be a speaker. She also participated in workshops on advance directives, which included good resource information on this topic.

Regarding the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Conference, she was asked to return in 2004 for the 25th anniversary conference, but she would like to designate another Council member to attend next year in 2003. Ann asked where it will be held and Alyce said she believes it will be in St. Louis. More discussion followed. Alyce asked interested members to let her know.

Regarding Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference, Alyce mentioned that she will probably not be seeking reappointment to Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC). However, she would like to recommend someone else who might be interested in this position, and she will consider suggestions. She just attended the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference in Santa Fe, which focused on various juvenile justice issues. Alyce then discussed a service delivery model presented at the conference in detail. Dave said the program is called *Intensive Community-Based Services and Rehabilitative Skills*. He said that the Medicaid Office is looking at a move away from residential services to wraparound, community-based services such as this one.

Regarding Ticket to Work, Alyce noted that she has resigned as Chair of this group, but will continue working with it. Although some tickets have been issued in Nevada, they cannot be

used at this time because there are no providers established. She discussed in more detail the challenges faced in the Ticket to Work program. Dave asked if the group has determined a poverty level yet. Alyce said they recommended a level but Medicaid wants to reduce it. She further discussed the details of the implementation of the program.

Regarding the homeless task force, Alyce said they have been funded by the Legislature to work on homelessness. The Task Force has conducted a housing study that will be released soon. Alyce reiterated her support for a Statewide Housing Coordinator. Debbie said she is unsure whether a housing coordinator would be able to obtain more funding for housing than is already available to individual buyers.

Alyce then briefly brought up the Welfare Statewide Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT), which involves a variety of State agencies, and she discussed her participation in the group.

Finally, Alyce asked Anna Uptergrove to provide an update on the Carson City Mental Health Coalition. Ann distributed a handout that summarizes her update. She said the group emerged from recognition that the Carson community was lacking needed mental health services. They brought a broad range of stakeholders together to address these problems. In particular, they focused on the use of the local jail as a ‘holding facility’ for persons with mental illness. This resulted in establishing an MDT to address the problem. The MDT has been active since October, 2001, which has resulted in the reduction of suicide attempts and ambulance calls in the area, along with morale improvement for jail staff. Ann discussed other positive outcomes as a result of the work of the Coalition and further reviewed her report in detail. More discussion followed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Alyce Thomas asked if anyone has new business to put before the Council. Bob Bennett said he had some information items. He announced that Art Biegeleisen, whom he replaced on the Council, died a few months ago. He also mentioned that Boston University is hosting a conference in October on recovery from mental illness.

He then brought up a meeting of the Psychiatric Congress in Las Vegas, which he discussed at a prior meeting, that excludes consumers from participating and includes a ‘consumers from hell’ workshop. He said that they have removed this workshop from the website, although he is unsure as to whether they will offer this during the conference or not. Regarding the exclusion of consumers, he said it appears that this conference is intended for professionals, but does not appear to specifically exclude consumers.

Bob brought up a project by the Department of Corrections that includes examination of offenders with mental illness. He believes the Council should become involved in this.

Bob also brought up NAMI’s work on seclusion and restraint. The organization is attempting to gather statistics about the amount of time patients are restrained. He spoke with Dr. Kevin Crowe about this and Kevin explained that it is confidential information. However, Kevin said

that MHDS does collect statistics on seclusion and restraint along with other hospital indicators, often referred to as ORYX indicators, and he suggested that Bob request that Alyce meet with Dr. Carlos Brandenburg to discuss the release of these statistics. Dave Caloiaro said that he is working on confidentiality surrounding hospital statistics and agrees it is worth looking into. Alyce suggested that Bob should meet with Carlos directly. Kevin agreed it would be good for Bob to approach Carlos directly.

Alyce agreed to put this topic on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public attendees made their comments under the above agenda items.

X. SET DATE, TIME, LOCATION, AND TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETINGS

Andrew Zeiser briefly reviewed the RFP process and the timelines involved to evaluate the proposals. He then suggested a late August date. Discussion followed and the members agreed to Monday, August 26. Andrew reviewed the remaining meeting dates for the year: October 25 and December 12. He pointed out that October 25 is the State holiday for Nevada Day. Dave Caloiaro recommended Tuesday, October 22. The members agreed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.